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Message Text

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73
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-15 OES-04 RSC-01 /035 W
---------- 122626
R 051629Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6710
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

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KADUNA PASS KANO

E.O. 11652 : NA
TAGS : OEXC, NI
SUBJ : SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIPS: TRAVEL BY
AMBASSADOR JOSEPH PALMER

FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN CONNECTION PALMER'S VISITS TO URBAN CENTERS IN NORTHERN, WESTERN AND EASTERN NIGERIA:

1. KANO VISIT BEGAN OCT. 29 WITH VERY HELPFUL DINNER GIVEN BY PAO AT WHICH PALMER HAD OPPORTUNITY EXPLAIN SCI PROGRAM TO ACTING MAYOR, PRESIDENT KANO ROTARY CLUB, PERMSEC LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION, KANO STATE AND BUSINESS AND OTHER LOCAL LEADERS, ALL OF WHOM EXPRESSED INTEREST. THIS FOLLOWED OCT. 30 BY CORDIAL AUDIENCE WITH EMIR OF KANO WHO EXPRESSED BOTH DEEP INTEREST AND DESIRE IN PRINCIPLE FOR KANO TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM. FURTHER MEETINGS WITH CHAIRMAN AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER, KANO METROPOLITAN BOARD ALSO WERE POSITIVE AND HELPFUL ALTHOUGH PROGRAM OUTSIDE THEIR DIRECT RESPONSIBILITTY. UNFORTUNATELY, MILITARY GOVERNOR KANO STATE UNABLE KEEP APPOINTMENT BECAUSE OF OTHER URGENT BUSINESS.

PALMER DID NOT MENTION POSSIBLE LOUISVILLE AFFILIATION DURING DISCUSSIONS KANO BECAUSE OF (A) UNCERTAINTY RE KADUNA'S INTEREST IN THAT CITY (SEE BELOW) AND (B) CONSIDERABLE SENTIMENT EXPRESSED BY SEVERAL NIGERIANS IN FAVOR RELATIONSHIP WITH A CALIFORNIA CITY AS CLOSEST US EQUIVALENT TO KANO'S DEVELOPMENTAL ENVIRONMENT.
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COINCIDENTALLY, PALMER MET AMCIT REICHARD PETERS (FORMERLY EXECUTIVE VP OF IVS) WHO REPRESENTS FOOD MANUFACTURING (FMC) OF FRESNO, CALIFORNIA WHICH CONDUCTING FEASIBILITY STUDY OF 60,000 ACRE FARMING DEVELOPMENT IN VICINITY OF KANO FOR KANO DEVELOPMENT BOARD. FMC WILL BE BRINGING IN NUMBER OF FRESNO RESIDENTS FOR PROJECT. PETERS WILL BE SENDING FURTHER DETAILS RE PROJECT TO PALMER IN CARE SCI. FOR FOREGOING AND OTHER REASONS, HE WILL EXPLAIN BY LETTER, PALMER RECOMMENDS FURTHER APPROACHES KANO BE DEFERRED PENDING HIS RETURN.

MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, HE SUGGEST PRELIMINARY APPROACHES FRESNO (WHICH HE NOTES ALREADY HAS SEVERAL SC AFFILIATIONS) RE POSSIBLE INTEREST.

2. KADUNA: PALMER HAD VERY WARM RECEPTION KADUNA SPEARHEADED BY SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR MAGAJI MOHAMMED WHO STARTED PROGRAM WITH ELABORATE

RECEPTION IN PALMER'S HONOR TO MEET ABOUT 100 TOP STATE, MUNICIPAL AND

CIVIC LEADERS EVENING OCT. 31. THIS FOLLOWED BY SERIES VERY CORDIAL MEETINGS NOV. 0 AND 2 WITH KEY NORTH CENTRAL STATE AND KADUNA MUNICIPAL LEADERS AND WELL ATTENDED DINNER BY P.O. FOR KEY OFFICIALS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS. KEEN INTEREST KADUNA AUTHORITIES IN US AFFILIATION CAME THROUGH STRONGLY IN ALL THESE CONTACTS. PRESENT STATUS KADUNA AFFILIATION IS AS FOLLOWS: MOHAMMED HAS INFORMALLY PRESENTED BOTH COMPTON AND LOUISVILLE TO KADUNA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WITH INTENTION LEAVING EVENTUAL CHOICE TO LATTER. HE MAINTAINS, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS HAD NO FIRM INDICATION THAT THESE TWO US ARE BOTH WILLING AFFILATE WITH KADUNA AND HE IS OBVIOUSLY RELUCTANT TO HAVE COUNCIL MAKE CHOICE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH HE FEARS SELECTED CITIES MIGHT REJECT COUNCIL'S PREFERENCE. (HE HAS PARTICULARLY IN MIND LOUISVILLE'S EXPRESSED INTEREST IN EITHER KANO OR KADUNA). HE FURTHER STATES SMITH (SCI) HAD PROMISED WRITE HIM CONFIRMING WILLINGNESS BOTH COMPTON AND LOUISVILLE TO AFFILIATE WITH KADUNA INCLUDING FORMAL INVITATIONS FROM BOTH CITIES.

AFTER FULL DISCUSSION OF PROBLEM, MOHAMMED AND PALMER AGREED ON FOLLOWING COURSE OF ACTION: (A) PALMER WOULD REQUEST SCI CONFIRM SOONEST TO PO TRIAL KADUNA INFORMAL BUT DEFINITE INTEREST BOTH LOUISVILLE AND COMPTION IN KADUNA AFFILIATION; (B) MOHAMMED WOULD THEN OBTAIN INFORMAL BUT DEFINITE DECISION FROM COUNCIL AT NEXT MEETING

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NOV. 27 RE ITS CHOICE; (C) DECISION WOULD BE COMMUNICATED SCI WHICH WOULD THEN PROMPT FORMAL WRITTEN INVITATION TO KADUNA FROM CITY CHOSEN BY COUNCIL. (D) KADUNA WOULD THEN ACT SOONEST TO FORMALIZE AFFILIATION IN WRITING.

APPARENT FROM CONVERSATIONS THAT MOHAMMED DEEPLY INTERESTED BOTH CITIES
BUT BELIEVES AFFILATION WITH LOUISVILLE HAS MORE RELEVANCE TO

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KADUNA. AT SOME TIME, HE APPARENTLY WISHES KEEP COMPTION OPTION
OPEN IF LOUISVILLE SHOULD PREFER KANO. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, PALMER
BELIEVES FOUR STEP COURSE OF ACTION OUTLINED ABOVE OFFERS BEST
MEANS OF RESOLVING IMPASSE AND, IN VIEW KEY IMPORTANCE THIS
AFFILIATION, REOMMENDS SCI MOVE ACCORDINGLY SOONEST.

3. OTHER NORTHERN CITIES: AS RESULT DISCUSSION WITH ALHAJI ABDU
ABUBAKAR, SECRETARY, INTERIM COMMON SERVICES AGENCY, PALMER
BELIEVES FOLLOWING OFFER BEST FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR AFFILIATION IN
NORTH: KATSINA AND ZARIA (NORTH CENTRAL STATE), SOKOTO
(NORTHWESTERN
ILORIN (KWARA), MAIDUGURI (NORTHEASTERN) AND JOS (BENUE-PLATEAU).
HOWEVER, PALMER RECOMMENDS SCI CONCENTRATE ON ESTABLISHING SUCCESSFUL
FUNCTIONING KADUNA RELATIONSHIP BEFORE EXPANDING TO OTHER CENTERS.

4. IBADAN, WESTERN STATE: CONTACTS LIMITED BUT VERY POSITIVE.
CHAIRMAN ASSEEZ CONFIRMS IBADAN- CLEVELAND RELATIONSHIP
DEFINITELY FORMALIZED. PALMER POUCHING SCI MEMO WHICH ASSEEZ HAS
CIRCULATED TO COUNCIL OUTLING NUMBER OF RATHER EXTENSIVE PROJECTS BE
DISCUSSED IN CLEVELAND AND HOPES REALIZE THRU AFFILATION.

5. OTHER WESTERN CITIES: PERMSEC B. A. ODUNTAN, WESTERN MINISTRY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AND NOW ACTING COMMISSIONER) EXPRESSED STRONG
DESIRE EXPAND PROGRAM TO ABOUT 10 OTHER WESTERN STATE CITIES AND TOWNS,

VOICING CONCERN THAT THOSE CENTERS WILL OTHERWISE CONSIDER STATE HAS
CONFERRED FAVORED STATUS ON IBADAN WITH RESULTANT "POLITICAL" FALL-OUT.

HE WILL FORWARD PALMER "SHOPPING LIST" OF SUCH CENTERS TOGETHER WITH
VITAL STATISTICS. AS WITH KADUNA, PALMER RECOMMENDS GETTING
IBADAN-CLEVELAND RELATIONSHIP ON FIRM FOOTING AS FIRST PRIORITY.

6. IFE: ASSEEZ HAD NOT BEEN IN CONTACT IFE SINCE HIS RETURN
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AND HAS NO INFO RE STATUS PENDING IFE-OBERLIN AFFILIATION.
HE PLANS TRAVEL IFE WEEKEND NOVEMBER 9 AND WILL PROVIDE REPORT
THRU BPAO.

7. BENIN: SIMILARLY, ASSEEZ UNINFORMED RE STATUS BENIN WHICH
IN ANY EVENT OUTSIDE HIS STATE. CAO PETERS WILL ATTEMPT
CONFIRM THAT CITY'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN AN AFFILIATION.
MEANWHILE, IF GREENSBORO STILL INTERESTED, PALMER SUGGESTS LETTER
FROM GITTINS TO CHAIRMAN BENIN CITY COUNCIL CONVEYING PALMER'S
REGRET HE UNABLE VISIT BENIN ENCLOSING AN EXPRESSION OF GREENSBORO'S
INTEREST, AND SOLICITING COUNCIL'S REACTION. PETERS CAN ARRANGE
DELIVERY TOGETHER WITH SCI INFO PACKET.

8. EAST CENTRAL STATE: VISIT TO ENUGU BRIEF BUT POSITIVE.
MR. G.I. NWOKIKE, RESIDENT (NEAREST EQUIVALENT OF MAYOR),

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INDICATED DESIRE FOR U.S. AFFILIATE AND PALMER PROMISED SCI WOULD LOOK INTO POSSIBILITIES. IF FEASIBLE, NWOKIKE WOULD LIKE HAVE SEVERAL POSSIBLE SUGGESTIONS FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE, INCLUDING ONE OR TWO IN TEXAS TO WHICH HE IS PERSONALLY ATTRACTED. ADDITIONALLY, MR. KEVIN N.O. EJIOGU OF EAST CENTRAL STATE CABINET OFFICE HAS PROMISED COMPLILE AND SEND SCI SHORT LIST OF OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS IN STATE CONSIDERED SUITABLE FOR US RELATIONSHIPS, TOGETHER WITH VITAL DATA.

9. PALMER WILL TRY SUPPLY SCI WITH SUPPLEMENTAL POUCHED WRITTEN REPORT FROM NAIROBI.
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